

Distinguished Engineer Recommends Metropolitan Water For West Basin

After a four-months study of a cure for the critical West Basin water shortage, Harold Conkling, one of the West's most distinguished hydraulic engineers, recommends that the area take steps to form a water district and become a member of the Metropolitan system. Torrance is the only city of the basin now a member of the M. W. D.

This report, based on a comparative study of the many factors pertaining to the water needs of the West Basin, is the first of its kind and has been awaited with much interest.

Conkling was retained by the West Basin Water Association, Ben Haggott, president, to make the survey.

For more than 30 years Conkling has been identified with State and Federal water studies. During that time, while with the United States Reclamation Bureau, he conducted surveys in eight western states which aided in the formation of vast water projects, among them the Colorado River compact of 1922.

He was also retained by the government of Peru, while on leave from the State Division of Water Resources, to recommend a solution to the water problems of the South American country.

Conkling's findings for the West Basin coincide with his scheduled appearance before Inglewood's Water Committee of 75 members meeting at the In-

glewood City Hall last evening. This committee has heard several authorities discuss the needs in the West Basin. In his extensive report, which is on file at the Redondo Beach offices of the West Basin Water Association and which is available to the public, Conkling does not dismiss the possibilities of sewage purification as a means to an adequate supplemental water supply.

"But," says the report, "it is believed that the barriers to obtaining a right in the Los Angeles sewage discharge area, although intangible, very real and would deter consummation for an indefinite period."

He adds significantly, "West Basin necessities are immediate."

In its 1945 study of the possible sources of water supply the West Basin Ground Water Conservation Group had cited seven possible ways of bringing supplemental water supplies into this area. Engineer Conkling quickly dismisses all but two of these.

Thus, in his judgment, the means to a cure narrow itself to the comparative merits of the Metropolitan system and the reclamation of sewage waters.

Pursuing this comparison through its various phases of cost, availability, time, etc., Engineer Conkling concludes that Metropolitan water is the logical choice because it may be had comparatively quickly and through legal steps already known and established, while the acquiring of sewage as a permanent "right" even if possible, is fraught with delay and ambiguity.

Some interesting points emphasized in the Conkling report are:

1. It is assumed that within West Basin District only, extraction of 10,000 acre feet per annum would be necessary to maintain pumps and wells, to supply peak loads in excess of the capacity of surface distribution system, and to provide for entities so isolated that to ex-



URGES M.W.D. WATER
Harold Conkling, whose water study of West Basin is made available to public.

tend a surface system to them would be uneconomical.

2. It is assumed that all present extraction of natural recharge from West Basin except 10,000 acre feet will be enjoined by the court until water-table rises to a safe level. After that, extraction of natural recharge could increase to the limit of safety. This means that the extraction of 53,000 acre feet in West Basin District and 10,000 acre feet in Torrance and Los Angeles would be enjoined at

3. Chemical qualities of the two waters (Metropolitan and purified sewage) would be fairly comparable but the sewage water would be more suitable for use in industry than the Colorado River water and the latter more suitable than sewage water for domestic use, because softer. Both would be free from toxic chemicals.

4. In the estimate of cost of the importation of Colorado River water the cost of laterals to strategic points has been included, but whether this would be borne by Metropolitan Water District, by West Basin District or by the individual entities is a matter for later decision.

5. The entire cost of the project for importing 53,000 acre feet of Colorado River water would be \$36.32 per acre foot for the first 30 years. This includes operation, taxes, interest and direct payments for the water imported.

6. The back taxes which would be paid to Metropolitan Water District would be \$5,850,000. The cost of a distribution system in the West Basin would be \$5,500,000. If the back taxes were used by the Metropolitan District to pay for the necessary construction work, if it also operated the system in the West Basin District, and if the latter district made a direct charge of \$15 per acre foot, a tax rate of 83 cents would pay for remaining annual cost.

The tax rate if a sewage reclamation system were used, with no cost for the "right" in the sewage, based on 1945-46 valuation would be 45 cents per \$100 with \$13,000,000 the cost of building the system.

TRAINED LEADERSHIP

A non-sectarian group work organization for boys 7 to 21 years of age, the Boys' Club of San Pedro provides recreational and educational activities, including handicraft and summer camping to boys of all races under trained leadership. This is a Community Chest project.

No Fats, No Soap, Warning Issued By County Agent

Soap is made from refined fats. No fat—no soap!

The United States Department of Agriculture states that over half of an estimated 500 million pounds of salvaged fat go down the kitchen drain every year. The same report shows that only 60 percent of the women of the nation are salvaging kitchen fats, but that 99 percent know the need exists.

Save the kitchen fats, says Mrs. Margaret Todd, home demonstration agent in Los Angeles County. If everybody helps, there will be enough soap to go around next year. She adds that keeping fats out of cesspools and septic tanks will prolong their life.

Collection Of Used Fats Drops, Government Says

Collections of used kitchen fats in Los Angeles County for the month of July were lower than in June. Los Angeles County collections reflected the downward trend nationally for the month, according to A. G. Hemming, chairman of the USDA Association in Los Angeles. Los Angeles County collections in July were 255,255 pounds as against 504,994 pounds for July of last year. In June, 1946, there were 430,350 pounds collected in the county. National collections for July totaled 9,225,000 pounds as against slightly over 11,000,000 pounds for June and 10,000,000 for July of last year.

Hemming added that with the limited retail meat supplies in late June and early July the amount salvaged in Los Angeles County for the month indicates continued interest on the part of housewives in turning in used fats for collections to be as high as they were.

Hemming pointed out that there has been no improvement in supplies of fats and oils and it remains as important now as ever before for housewives to save and turn in every drop of used fats. He added that where there is fat there is soap, and unless American women continue to salvage fat at the present rate or better, soap supplies will get even shorter than they are now.

Torrance housewives turned in 852 pounds for the month of July, as compared with 1222 for June. For the month of July a year ago, Torrance housewives turned in 1147 pounds.

Lomita housewives turned in 772 pounds in July, 1946; 1000 pounds in June and 1106 in July, 1945. Harbor City's figures are 16, 28 and 217.

Apply For Old Age Security At 65 Years

If you're planning on using your Social Security benefits when you retire, look out! You should apply for them just as soon as you're 65 years of age.

That warning was issued by the Long Beach office of the Social Security Board. Some 12 percent of all beneficiaries lost part of the benefits coming to them under the Social Security Act because they have failed to file their claims promptly.

James G. Bretherton, manager of the Long Beach field office of the Social Security Administration, said this was revealed in a nation-wide survey recently. "Any loss of benefits could be completely eliminated if all wage earners covered by the law, 65 or over, will contact a Social Security Administration for the purpose of freezing their benefits whether or not they plan on retiring immediately," Bretherton said.

The Long Beach field office is located at 423 Jergins Trust building. Representatives of the Social Security Administration are available for consultation in the U. S. Employment Service offices on the indicated days in the following cities: San Pedro, 862 W. 7th st., Tuesdays after 1:30 p.m. Torrance, 1628 Cravens, Wednesdays and Thursdays after 1:30 p.m.

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